

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 191510
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AID-05 EB-08 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 COME-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 TRSE-00 PM-05 DODE-00 L-03 MCE-00
AGRE-00 STR-07 H-01 PA-01 ICAE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02
FRB-03 INT-05 ITC-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 CTME-00 CEA-01
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-----005842 282223Z /70

O 282202Z JUL 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL BUKAVU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 191510

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SWEL, EAID, US, UG

SUBJECT: SENATE EMBARGO ON UGANDAN TRADE

1. REQUEST EMBASSY INFORM FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR
TRANSMISSION TO FRG EMBASSY, KAMPALA OF FOLLLOWING
REPORT: ON JULY 28 THE FULL SENATE PASSED AN AMENDMENT
(73 TO 1) TO THE IMF AUTHORIZATION BILL WHICH BANS IMPORT
OF ALL UGANDAN COMMODITIES TO THE U.S. AND ALL U.S.
EXPORTS TO UGANDA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF "CEREAL GRAINS
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PAGE 02 STATE 191510

AND ADDITIONAL FOOD PRODUCTS." THIS AMENDMENT, IF
UNCHANGED BY SENATE-HOUSE CONFEREES OR WHEN VOTED ON
HOUSE FLOOR WOULD BECOME LAW AND THEREBY ESTABLISH A
MANDATORY TRADE EMBARGO ON UGANDA. DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS
POSSIBILITY OF ALTERATION OR DELETION OF THIS AMENDMENT
FROM THE IMF BILL TO BE UNLIKELY.

2. IN THE PAST, AMIN HAS DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN U.S. EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS HOSTILE TO HIS REGIME AND HAS REFRAINED FROM OVERREACTION TO CRITICISM OR NON-BINDING RESOLUTIONS IN THE CONGRESS. ALSO, THE BULK OF US-UGANDA TRADE, COFFEE IMPORTS, HAS DIMINISHED SIGNIFICANTLY AS A RESULT OF THE VOLUNTARY EMBARGO ON THE IMPORTATION OF UGANDA COFFEE, AND THE ACTUAL

IMPACT OF THIS EMBARGO SHOULD BE MINIMAL. NONETHELESS, SHOULD THIS AMENDMENT BE ENACTED IT WOULD REPRESENT THE POSITION OF BOTH THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES AND, AS SUCH, PRESENT AMIN WITH A SITUATION IN WHICH HE MAY FEEL COMPELLED TO REACT AGAINST THE U.S. THE PRINCIPAL MEANS BY WHICH HE COULD DO SO WOULD BE TO THREATEN THE AMERICANS WHO REMAIN IN UGANDA.

3. GIVEN THIS POSSIBILITY WE REQUEST THAT FRG EMBASSY IN KAMPALA ALERT AMERICANS THROUGH THE WARDEN SYSTEM ABOUT THE SENATE ACTION AND SUGGEST AGAIN THAT THESE RESIDENTS SHOULD RECONSIDER THE ADVISABILITY OF THEIR CONTINUED RESIDENCE IN UGANDA. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE AMERICANS NOT BE OVERLY ALARMED AT THIS TIME AS WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT AMIN, OR THE GOU, IS PLANNING ANY ACTIONS HOSTILE TO THE AMERICANS.

4. WE WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE FOR AN ASSESSMENT
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PAGE 03 STATE 191510

FROM THE FRG EMBASSY IN KAMPALA AS TO AMIN'S REACTION TO THIS LEGISLATION AND WOULD HOPE THAT THE FRG EMBASSY WOULD REPORT ON ITS EFFORTS TO ALERT AMERICAN RESIDENTS.

VANCE

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